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DEAD SOLDIER'S TAG BEARS JAPANESE NAME -- Pusan, Minju Sinbo, 20 Apr 51

According to ROK soldiers fighting on the eastern front, a Japanese soldier was among the enemy troops killed recently in the vicinity of the Imjin River near the 38th Parallel. The men of the 9862d Force, also known as the "Paektu-san" Force, discovered among the dead the body of an enemy soldier, who, according to his identification tag, was Okamoto Takeo, age 29, attached to the 29th Brigade of the Chinese Communist Forces. Okamoto was presumably a former member of the Japanese Kwantung Army.

The 9862d Force of the ROK Army, which distinguished itself by recapturing Hill 514 and the towns of Hoengsong, Hongch'on, Ch'unch'on, and Kap'yong in the recent Red counteroffensive, is currently defending the strategically important Hill 1468 of T'aebaek San. This hill overlooks the most convenient route for the UN advance northward, and consequently was a target for the enemy's spring offensive. On 22 April, 1951, a CCF regiment, taking advantage of the rain and snow, launched a heavy counterattack against a unit of the 9862d Force, which was defending the hill. After 5 hours of fierce hand-grenade fighting, the enemy withdrew to the Imjin River area, leaving behind over 80 of their dead.

KIM KYU-SIK REPORTED ALIVE IN RED HANDS -- Pusan, Minju Sinbo, 6 Apr 51

The tens of thousands of prominent men of South Korea whose whereabouts have been unknown since they were taken to North Korea by the Reds at the time of the 25 June 1950 invasion, are reportedly confined in Chagang Do, said to be a new province created by the puppet regime near the Manchurian border from parts of P'yongan Pukto and Hamgyong Pukto.

A former ROK government official, who was among those taken to Chagang Do, has disclosed that over 10,000 anti-Communists and nationalists are now confined in farm houses and temporary prisons established there. Among these are Dr Kim Kyu-sik, former chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the South Korean interim government; An Chae-hong, former editor of Chosun Ilbo, founder of the Nationalist Party, and member of the Legislative Assembly; and Cho So-ang, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government in Exile in Shanghai.

The former ROK government official, who managed to escape from Chagang Do in the latter part of December 1950 after 2 months of captivity, said that persons of no importance among these captives who could not serve any purpose for the Reds were held in temporary prisons, while those who could be utilized in some way were segregated from the rest and placed in nearby farm houses. Their food and general living conditions were very poor, and they were barely able to keep alive. The Communists themselves thus proved the falseness of their own propaganda that if a person surrenders voluntarily he would be treated well.

The official further stated that the former director of the Electric Power Bureau in the ROK Ministry of Commerce and Industry, electrical and construction engineers, and other persons whom the Reds could exploit were taken to Communist-occupied Seoul to help rehabilitate Seoul and, at the same time, tell the people that those who were taken to North Korea are well treated.

The official stated that normal economic activities are at a complete standstill in North Korea today. Since the money has no value, prices fluctuate violently, and trade is confined to primitive barter, he said, all the banks are bankrupt.

According to the official, the present population in Chagang Do is largely composed of government workers and some of their families, although most of the families have been sent to the northeastern part of Manchuria.

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